

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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Meeting of the Board of Directors

Problems connected with the Defense program and the part the industry is taking in the program were the principal subjects of discussion at a two-day meeting of the Board of Directors held in Washington, May 22 and 23. In addition, the Board received reports from a number of the Association's committees, which held meetings on the two days preceding the meeting of the Board to consider the progress of the regular activities of the Association and to complete plans for the remainder of the year.

The outstanding result of the meeting was a better understanding, on the part of canners, of the immense task facing the industries of the country—and the canning industry in particular—in carrying out the Defense program, and a better appreciation, on the part of the Government officials, of the canners' problem and the sincere purpose of the industry to do its full part. As there were present at the Board meeting not only members of the Board but also members of the Association's various committees, chairmen of the commodity sections, and representatives of 22 State and regional canners associations, the information presented at the meeting and the spirit of cooperation that was developed will be carried personally to all branches of the industry and all parts of the country.

Opening Address by President Paulus

President Robert C. Paulus delivered the opening address on Thursday morning, crystallizing the world situation in terms of canning industry contribution to national defense. American canners have the stake of an advanced civilization, the highest standard of living in the world, and hard earned and deeply cherished rights and privileges, summed up in the word "liberty," he asserted. In his opinion, America has no alternative other than defense of these ideals and standards. Her opportunity and obligation is "the speeding up of deliveries of finished goods, raw materials, and subsistence supplies to those resisting aggression." Mr. Paulus then pointed to the aftermath of the war which he believes will find America facing humanitarian problems and an opportunity for service towards betterment of the world, and assuming these responsibilities in a place of world leadership.

He compared the position of the canning industry at the time of the January convention with the new situation prevailing now, pointing out that then, through cooperation and consultation between Government officials and industry, subsistence supplies were felt to be adequate, whereas now, due to projection of the Lend-Lease program, the problem has been altered and demands immediate mobilization of productive capacity, "in some food lines, to the extent of the industry's capacity to produce."

Progress in productive activity must not be deterred through unnecessary delay over details, Mr. Paulus asserted.

"Tolerance toward those intrusted with working out the provisions for this immense program through its development stage is obviously essential, and once the go-ahead signal is given, every shoulder should be put to the wheel. All possible haste should be developed by every individual to carry out his part of the work. There must be no division in the ranks of America. Its people must all speak the same language."

Address by General C. L. Corbin

President Paulus then introduced Brigadier General C. L. Corbin, Chief of the Supply Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, appearing on the program in place of Quartermaster General Edmund B. Gregory, who had been called out of town.

General Corbin told the directors that one of the reasons his chief would like to have been present in person was to have been thus enabled to congratulate the Association on having Frank E. Gorrell as secretary.

"Providing huge quantities of canned goods for a rapidly expanding Army is an old story to Mr. Gorrell. In what we now call the first World War he was of tremendous help to the Quartermaster General in supplying an Army which was even more rapidly growing than is our present one. Anyone who is familiar with the activities of the Quartermaster General's Office during those hectic days of 1918 will tell you that there existed a desperate situation in providing ample food supplies for the Army. They will also tell you that Frank Gorrell handled that part of the problem which was concerned with canned food better than anyone else could possibly have done.

"Most of you already know that it is the function of the Quartermaster Corps to feed, clothe, house and transport the Army. Naturally, we are in daily contact with men from every branch of industry, and it is important that we keep well informed about the peculiar problems which confront those who furnish our supplies.

"During the last 20 years when the Army numbered less than 200,000 men our demands on industry were not great. For that reason we bought in small lots, as a retailer would buy. Now, however, with a new citizen Army of 1,400,000 men, the situation is radically changed. The procurement of items needed for an Army of this size, plus the necessity for hasty procurement and rapid delivery, has brought with it problems which have altered our picture greatly. We are in the same position that any one of you would be, were your family suddenly to be multiplied by nine.

"With the Army grown to nine times its former strength, the greater part of its personnel is concentrated in large units, and it is both fitting and economical that the Army should assume now the status of a wholesaler, and in all possible instances procure its products direct from the producer. Nevertheless, of the many hundreds of items that the Army purchases in volume, canned goods are the only ones which are not largely supplied as yet by their manufacturers.

"We have been concerned about this relationship between the canners and the Army, and, as long ago as last November we held a conference with the representatives of your industry so that we might be better informed about any obstacles which might be in the path of our direct association. Your committee enumerated and explained them to us. We have done our best since then to cooperate. We have removed, or are now in the process of removing, substantially all of these possible obstacles.

"Perhaps a study of our recent 'Invitation to Bid' on the Army's first central-office purchase of canned food, the recent request for canned tomatoes, will be an interesting comparison with our former method.

"In the first place, you will notice that this proposal asks for only one kind of canned food, tomatoes, and those only in carload lots, over 200 carloads in all. Instead of specifying only one size, any one of three sizes is allowed and the exact equivalent in each of these sizes is indicated so that no conversion by the bidder is necessary. Incidentally, the unit listed is 'the dozen' to conform with trade practice, instead of 'the can' which was the Army custom.

"It is specified that final inspection will be made at the point of origin instead of the point of delivery. It is unnecessary to mention what a great advantage this is to you over the previous method of inspection at the point of delivery. Certainly, with inspection at the factory before labeling, no canner who knows the quality of his own goods would be assuming any grave risk in quoting the Army just as he would quote his other customers.

"Further, the Federal specifications for canned foods have been so revised that they are as nearly like commercial quality grades as it is possible to do. These revised specifications will very soon be in use. So far as tomatoes are concerned, there is very little, if any, divergence from commercial practice, and they present no obstacle.

"The so-called increase and decrease clause has been eliminated from the contract and so has the cancellation clause and the requirement for bidder's bond and performance bond. The whole form of the proposal has been changed in order to simplify for the bidder the process of submitting bids. In fact, we feel that we have done almost everything to make ourselves desirable direct customers of canners.

"We know that the advertised bid method of purchasing may be objected to by some of you. You may feel that it ties up your goods for too long a period and that you don't know where you stand; but government business is everyone's business, and, from long experience, the government has found that purchasing is best done this way. If it is done by negotiation those who do not get the contracts might justifiably complain that they have received unfair treatment; for it would be humanly impossible to give everyone an even chance by negotiation, unless first the opportunity to bid had been provided. We propose to continue using the principle of the bid method and we will only resort to negotiation when the bid method fails to supply us with the quantities required and at the proper price.

"The Quartermaster Corps is going to require enormous quantities of canned food. You might like to know that the cans of vegetables and fruits which are to be consumed by the Army this year would, if laid end to end, form a belt more than half way around the world, or an unbroken line from San Francisco to New York to London and to Delhi, India.

"Shipments of canned vegetables alone would require more than 8,500 freight cars with 40,000 pounds of canned goods packed in each car. If we were to add the cars loaded with a year's supply of Army canned fruit, coffee and butter to this mythical train it would measure 120 miles—a distance from Washington to Richmond, or from the Nation's Capital

to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Our commissary shelves are full of almost every type of canned food of which we have ever heard. In the field ration there are usually two or more items of canned food included in every meal. Even during the summer months when fresh fruits and vegetables are readily available, very often canned supplies are also used because of their easy handling when troops are in the field.

"I suppose that every one of you knows some one who has entered the service recently—a son, brother, cousin or friend. On the whole, these boys like their meals. In the May issue of *McCall's* magazine, there's an article written around the letter of a selectee to his mother, and I think that the title of the feature tells our story for us. The article is called 'Don't worry, Mom, the food's O. K.' But this problem of feeding the Army is not a static one and it is far from having been solved to the satisfaction of everybody. We still need the whole-hearted cooperation of you gentlemen here today. My chief message to you is to ask for this cooperation in helping to keep our Army the best fed in all the world.

"I would like to tell you of two definite steps which recently have been taken to help you in assuming the greatly increased burden of Army orders with as little disruption of your regular commercial trade as it is possible for us to work out:

"The first was to centralize the purchase of canned goods and non-perishable foods. These purchases now are to be made from Quartermaster Depots at New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

"The New York Depot will purchase all coffee, tea, sugar, jam, pickles and all types of condiments. At the Chicago Quartermaster Depot practically all canned vegetables, flour and flour products, rice, beans, canned meat, evaporated milk and certain other products are to be procured. All canned fruits, dried fruits, canned fish and articles of this nature are to be purchased by the San Francisco Depot. Our regional depots will purchase specialties which are required in lesser amounts. I would like to point out that although our buying is now being centralized, no canner who is geographically distant from a purchasing depot need fear that this fact will militate against his receiving an Army contract. These items are going to be purchased F. O. B. to the camp which requires them or F. O. B. the nearest distributing depot. This will equitably distribute our buying load throughout the entire country and your whole industry can have a share in it, regardless of where any canner is located.

"The other change in our methods of procuring ample supplies of food for the Army is the changeover from garrison ration to field ration, which took place the first of this month. A ration, by the way, is the allowance of food for one soldier for one day.

"The garrison ration, formerly in use, consisted of 39 items of food and substitutes for many of them considered to be necessary for a balanced daily diet. Each mess sergeant was allowed a money credit for each ration. He decided what he would feed the soldiers in his unit and then he bought the necessary food at the commissary of the post where he was stationed. He purchased on credit just as your wife may have charged groceries at her neighborhood store. In large camps such as we have now there might be 100 or more mess officers. With each of them ordering a different menu, the commissary would have had an almost impossible task in supplying the numerous items which might have been requested.

"Under the field ration, the food itself is issued instead of money credit. The commander of each camp prepares a menu which is to be used by all messes under his jurisdiction. Through this method properly balanced diet is assured for all soldiers who come under the system. Nor need that kill the initiative of any mess sergeant. He still will be re-

sponsible for turning out adequate and appetizing meals. Through this system of planning, too, we are now in a position to know at least two weeks in advance what are the requirements of each camp and we are thus able to buy our food in larger quantities; our canned goods, for instance, in carloads.

"There may still be small obstacles to doing business with the Army, but the sum total of them is inconsiderable. The Army is not unreasonable nor does it have any intention of 'cracking down' on any one. It realizes that it is hard for you to appreciate the urgency of its problem, but I do ask you to make its problem your own personal problem. It is your Army; your sons are a part of it. I know you will resolve individually to do your share in feeding it; to forget the petty obstacles. Invitations to bid will then not represent merely another chance to sell some merchandise—but an opportunity to be of service. It may be that in the future we will have to ask for bids on even shorter notice than you have come to expect, but if we do, you may be certain that we are doing so because we find it absolutely necessary.

"It is, I think, particularly appropriate that I, as a representative of the Quartermaster General of the Army, should have been talking to you who are engaged in the canning industry, for as all of you know it was in response to an appeal to meet the subsistence needs of an Army that the art of canning was first devised. Since then the art has become a science, and an industry which found its fullest development here in the United States of America. You who sit before me have had no small part in this development. I hope you have prospered thereby and have brought prosperity to others. Now we are entering troubled times in our country's history. Not only that prosperity but your freedom must be protected, and it is a time when I am sure you are all conscious of your obligation to your country. The old Army posters used to say to the young men of America, 'Uncle Sam needs you.' So I say to you canners of America, 'The Army needs you,' nor have I any doubt but that it can depend upon your unselfish cooperation."

Informal Talks at Luncheon

At the noon luncheon on Thursday, there were addresses by Leon Henderson, Administrator of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, and by Milo Perkins, Director of the Surplus Marketing Administration.

Mr. Henderson explained the basis of the work of the Office of Price Administration and its purpose to prevent undue and inflationary price changes so far as possible by voluntary action. He emphasized that the O. P. A. C. S. has no interest in the imposition of formal prices, so long as satisfactory results can be otherwise achieved. He also called attention to the newer phase of the work of his office, that of civilian supply and its effect on the price situation.

In his address, Mr. Perkins drew a contrast between present conditions and those existing in 1917, particularly with respect to food supplies now available, our latent capacity to increase these supplies, and the existence of machinery for handling problems of both production and distribution. He made a stirring plea for confidence in the future, and for acceptance of individual responsibility for carrying out the national program.

Work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

At the opening of the Thursday afternoon session President Paulus introduced Lee R. Pennington, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who presented an outline of the role of his bureau during this national emergency. Mr. Pen-

nington drew an interesting picture of the methods by which the F. B. I. is protecting factories working on defense contracts from the dangers of sabotage from within, and how it is conducting its anti-espionage activities.

MacKeachie Reviews Army Purchasing

Following Mr. Pennington, Douglas C. MacKeachie, deputy director of the Division of Purchases, Office of Production Management, was introduced, substituting for Donald M. Nelson, who had been detained in New York.

Mr. MacKeachie reviewed efforts made to work out changes in the specifications and contracts that would enable the canning industry to sell directly to the Government and paid tribute to the able performance along these lines by John L. Baxter, liaison man between canners and the Office of the Quartermaster General.

The speaker felt that had Mr. Nelson been able to attend he would have been anxious to tell the canning industry that,—

"As the situation becomes more serious, and it is becoming more so every day, the shortage of some of our basic materials is becoming more acute. Possibly that has not yet hit the canning industry in any vital spots, although canning machinery is undoubtedly difficult to obtain, and possibly some supplies. It is becoming more and more evident that the program of conservation must be brought pretty close to your industry within rather a short time and that in its simplest form to you—simplification of sizes, styles and types—can be employed, not only to increase your production but to limit excess use of materials. I believe that in some parts of the country there is considerable worry on the part of canners as to the supply of labor, particularly hand labor. It may be that some simplification of grades, types and sizes may be necessary so that a canning plant can handle the crops brought in. I hope that within a short time we will come to the industry and ask you to appoint a committee to work with us for the simplification of the canned foods line, not going further than is absolutely necessary. We believe we can be helpful in supplies, and eliminate some of the excess supplies that may be used which interfere with material essential for defense. We unquestionably will have a formal request to make to your industry within a reasonable time, and I believe it would be well to give thought to this in your meetings, and possibly some discussion."

Among further remarks, Mr. MacKeachie mentioned the news release which came out after the requested bids on canned tomatoes had been received. The speaker felt that Mr. Nelson would have told the meeting that while the response to that invitation to bid had been disappointing, the Division is gratified at the results of their having gone out and negotiated to obtain the necessary supplies of tomatoes, and the Army is quite satisfied with the results.

The Government agencies feel, Mr. MacKeachie stated, that "the canning industry is interested in seeing that the troops obtain the kind of food they want at fair and reasonable prices." However, he did not want his listeners to construe that to mean a trend towards further purchases under the plan of negotiated rather than advertised bids, which latter practice will be continued.

"We feel confident that the defense agencies of the Government will be met with a full response from the canning industry. Most canners are now, I believe, convinced that

it is essential for the intelligent and regular distribution of merchandise in quantities in the armed services, that canners offer their merchandise when it is needed," he concluded.

Panel Discussion of Army Buying

The panel discussion on details of Army purchases of canned foods, with Lt. Col. Paul P. Logan, of the Quartermasters General's Office, and John L. Baxter answering questions put by canners, occupied the latter part of the Thursday afternoon session and brought about wide participation and a high degree of interest.

Following are some of the points of the Army purchasing program clarified by this question and answer session:

To the question as to whether the Army will purchase in less than carload lots, it was explained that there are some small posts, air corps, coast artillery, etc., that cannot use carlots, these buying about 15 per cent of the total purchased by all 290 Army posts. It is hoped later to work out a system whereby carlots will roll into ten central depots and be reshipped to posts in L. C. L. shipments or as mixed cars.

With the central buying procedure established, one set of proposals for each commodity will be made for each quarter. The canner who has had his name listed to receive invitations will remain on the list unless he fails to respond on successive invitations. If he happens to be cleaned out of goods, or for some other reason cannot offer bids, he can request to be removed from the list. At any time he may request to be reinstated on the list at some specified date.

Proposals will be out in August for second quarter procurement, which covers the months of October, November, and December, and invitations will be issued from the central offices. This gives the canner a "short future" with few contingencies that could arise between the proposal and the pack.

As to determination of grades for Army purchases, it was explained that a canner needs only the combination of Federal specifications with Agricultural Marketing Service grades. The former states each necessary characteristic of the given canned food; the A. M. S. grade states what is necessary to meet those specifications. No system of weighted averages will be used in final determination of grade. The products must meet each specified characteristic.

As to whether A. M. S. inspection is necessary before the Army will accept goods, it was answered that the Army will make its own inspection of all goods it procures, at point of origin. This will prevent any goods getting into transportation before the transaction is completed. There need be no preliminary inspection, accordingly, and absence of it, therefore, is no deterrent to bidding.

The new Army specifications have reached final clearance. It is planned to have the National Canners Association publish the essential parts of these specifications, as they become available, in the INFORMATION LETTER. It is also planned to get the specifications out in mimeographed form.

Should unusual conditions arise requiring that the Army shift its proposals to another grade, this can be done by instructions to purchasing officers, but would only occur when and if the conditions warranted the shift.

It is up to the Army to get inspectors to the canner's plant before shipment.

It was advised that the canner in his bid quote on as many points of delivery as possible for which he has freight rates, but that the bid should specify the total quantity he can furnish.

The Army cannot shift contracts from one fort or post to another. If, for example, bids had been requested for Fort

Sam Houston and none were offered, but some came in for Fort Mason, the bids offering delivery for Fort Mason would not be accepted for delivery at Fort Sam Houston. That procedure would put the procurement under the category of "negotiation" instead of purchase advertised by bid.

At the present time, Walsh-Healey Act provisions apply to Army contracts for amounts of \$10,000 or over, but do not apply to purchases under the Lend-Lease Act by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

Where a proposal requests bids for delivery to a number of different points, and a canner submits separate bids and is awarded a contract for delivery to each of several different points, the Walsh-Healey Act applies if the total contract exceeds \$10,000 even though each of the separate bids for the different points is less than \$10,000.

Minimum number of samples cut at inspection at the factory is 12 to the thousand cases. The cost of the sample is borne by the canner.

Canner prepays freight on shipment of goods to the Army. He quotes a delivered price to the Army.

The canner is legally obligated to pay new increased costs of transportation which may result from increases in freight rates or elimination of service between the filing of his bid and the time of delivery. The canner may in such case file a claim with the Army for the increased costs, however, and it was stated that the attitude of the Army would be one of helpfulness to obtain adjustment of any such just claims.

The block of goods a canner offers on a bid should remain available throughout the period of time the canner has stipulated in his offer. The bids normally stand 10, 15, and in some cases, 30 days. If for some reason the goods are not available in the canner's own plant, he has a right to go elsewhere to obtain them. Should a canner who is awarded a contract fail to deliver, the Army may go into the open market and buy them, and require the canner to pay the Army the difference between what it has to pay and what the canner bid.

Bids may be withdrawn or changed by telegram at any time up to the time they are opened.

FSCC Purchases Exempt from Walsh-Healey

In the course of the question-and-answer panel, when inquiry was made as to application of the Public Contracts Act (Walsh-Healey Act) to contracts made by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation for canned tomatoes for future delivery, H. Thomas Austern, Association Counsel, read the reply of Administrator Milo Perkins to a letter the Association had addressed to him on the same subject. In this letter Mr. Perkins stated:

"It is the opinion of the Solicitor of this department that contracts made by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation for the purchase of agricultural commodities or the products thereof are not subject to the provisions of this Act. This is also the opinion of Mr. L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator, Division of Public Contracts, Department of Labor, as shown by correspondence with other canners in which he says, 'Contracts (by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation) for agricultural commodities or the products thereof, such as canned or processed meats and vegetables, are not made subject to the Public Contracts Act.'"

National Defense Committee Suggestions

The National Defense Committee, Chairman Frank Gerber reported, had no definite recommendations to submit to the Board, but there were several suggestions to offer on the basis of the committee's discussions.

The extent of the industry's cooperation in the Defense program will depend upon the requirements, he said. The government naturally felt a degree of disappointment over the results of the first request for bids on tomatoes for the Army, but this seems to have been due largely to the canner's lack of understanding, as evidenced by the later successful negotiated purchases. Each canner, it is felt, should approach the job, which is an industry job, as an individual responsibility. The government needs the industry's products, and canners should act on the assumption that they should reserve part of their output for the government. There is some disinclination, because of uncertainties as to conditions over which the canner has no control, to bid on futures. If goods are reserved for the government, however, canners will be in position to carry the goods and to bid as invitations are issued at intervals.

Mr. Gerber pointed out that those who are in attendance at the Board meeting furnish a complete regional representation of the industry. "It is suggested," Mr. Gerber said, "that each of you upon your return to your home convey to your fellow canners the facts you have learned here today—that government agencies are in the market and will be in the market during the coming year for their products, and that every canner should reserve part of his output for sale to the government when the government issues its invitations."

That canners will find fewer difficulties than they may anticipate from the formal appearance of the invitations, Mr. Gerber stated, was revealed by his personal experience in going over an invitation including items on which his firm was in position to consider bidding. He found the job much more simple than it first appeared, and believed that other canners would have a similar experience. He emphasized this fact, he said, because it is human nature to postpone action on what appears to be a complicated matter and because he believes that, if canners approach the problem with an earnest effort to reduce it to its essentials, they will find it easier to solve than many now believe.

Research Work of Can Manufacturers Institute

Prefacing his explanation of the objectives of the newly-formed Research Division of the Can Manufacturers Institute, Dr. Miller McClintock, its organizer and director, who addressed the Thursday morning session, paid tribute to the contribution of the canning industry to the health, prosperity, and standard of living of the American nation. He stated it was inspiring to "see an industry in session which, at this time, may have, as it has had in the past, more to do with the strength and power of the American people, not only to meet its peace-time needs but also its capacity to meet any threat from anywhere in the world than any other single industry."

Dr. McClintock said that the Can Manufacturers Institute was brought into being after many years of consideration, through the belief shared by canning industry leaders, can manufacturers, and executives in the steel business, that a closer integration of these varied branches was needed. Inauguration of the Research Division took place around the first of the year, with its chief concern the study, analysis and development of plans for the stabilization and expansion of the tin plate market. Similar to changes war conditions have imposed on the canning industry, these objectives have been drastically changed from a move towards a normal,

peace-time expansion of a basic commodity marketed in the United States and Europe to impending demands almost beyond the capacity of American production to meet. Despite the unique character of today's challenge, Dr. McClintock said that the long-term objective has not been abandoned—that of expanding and stabilizing the tin plate market for food containers.

"I am not so concerned about the day on which war is declared as about the day when peace comes—when the bottom drops out of a highly stimulated defense activity and we are again confronted with the cold, hard facts of adjusting American industry to the maintenance of the things for which we all work. We must unite, to furnish a certain guarantee that will perpetuate a state of democracy in our own land."

Economic Research Committee

Reporting for the Economic Research Committee, Chairman Harry L. Cannon stated that Dr. Neil Carothers had completed the compilation and tabulation of data in the survey he has been conducting, and has made a study of the findings that these data may justify. However, at a conference with reference to presentation of a report at the meeting of the Board, as was originally planned, it was found that the Committee and Dr. Carothers were in complete accord in the opinion that conclusions reached upon the basis of a study of peace-time conditions would have no present validity, and that issuance of a report should be deferred until the work can be finished in the light of changed conditions and the ultimate report reflect the impact of the current defense efforts of the canning industry as well as other effects of the present emergency.

Dr. Carothers, in a brief address to the Board, reviewed the basis on which the survey was undertaken, the problems involved in obtaining the needed information from a complex and widely distributed industry and from related industries, and the difficult task of organizing the data into usable form. He then pointed out the changes that had taken place in domestic and foreign conditions, the dislocations that had occurred in industry, trade, and finance, and the entirely altered conditions under which the industry is now called upon to operate.

"This is not the time to make recommendations based upon a study covering a peace-time period," Dr. Carothers stated. "I am sorry that this is the case, but I have reached this conclusion after deep consideration of every phase of the situation. The results of the work I have thus far done have been disclosed to no one—not even to members of the Economic Research Committee. They know no more than you do about the data embodied in the survey, or about the conclusions which, in my judgment, these facts justify. The material is in my hands and will remain in my hands until such time as in the judgment of the Committee it is appropriate to make the report."

Legislative Situation

In his report to the Board, Chairman C. E. Lindsey of the Legislative Committee named as the most important action by Congress this session, from canning industry viewpoint, the adoption of the amendment to the excess profits law that allows taxpayers to carry over and make up deficiencies in earnings for as much as two prior years before the earnings of a particular taxable year are deemed excessive and sub-

ject to the excess profits tax. This amendment, said Mr. Lindsey, may be traced directly to testimony and recommendations presented to the Senate Finance Committee last year by Association's counsel, following a meeting of the Committee.

Recently Leon Henderson, Administrator of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, proposed that the two-year carryover be lengthened to five years to take care of corporations that have violent ups and downs, and that a profit of six per cent be allowed. This suggestion was made to the House Ways and Means Committee during hearings on new tax proposals seeking to raise more revenue through the excess profits tax.

At these same hearings the question of a special tax on fruit and vegetable juices was raised by bottlers of soft drinks who wanted to know whether the Treasury Department's proposed schedule of new taxes on soft drinks related also to goods similar in general character, such as fruit and vegetable juices and other specified soda fountain items. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury John L. Sullivan told the Ways and Means Committee at the same hearing that the Department would not contend that the tax covered fruit juices.

Mr. Lindsey's report included comment on a few other bills of general interest which have passed or are on their way to enactment. These included the Lend-Lease Act and appropriations to carry out its policy, bills giving statutory authority for priorities control, and the regular annual appropriation bills. He cited a number also on which no action has been taken up to the present time, such as Senator McNary's bill to extend the order sections of the Marketing Agreements Act to prunes produced for canning in the states of Oregon and Washington, a resolution by Representative Bland of Virginia to exempt fruit and vegetable canners from the Wage and Hour Law, and a number of bills to regulate and control stream pollution. Also he mentioned the proposal by Representative Peterson and Senator Andrews of Florida to include canned fruit and tomato juices in the Navy ration and stated that this bill may be revised to include canned vegetable juices as well.

Recommendations of Simplification Committee

Chairman W. P. Hartman reported that the Committee on Simplification of Containers met in Washington on May 21 to consider primarily the operation of the Simplified Practice Program R155-40. The program of operation of R155-40 contemplates adjustments in the list of recommended can sizes from time to time to meet the changing conditions in the industry and to serve the interests of the consumer more effectively.

The National Bureau of Standards looks to the Committee on Simplification of Containers for guidance in making any changes in the recommended list of can sizes. The Committee acts as a clearing house for suggestions and recommendations made by the various members of the canning industry.

At the meeting on May 21, the Committee had two types of suggestions to consider: first, the expansion of the summary list, and second, the addition of cans now in the summary list to the lists recommended for individual products. In connection with the first suggestion, the Committee voted not to expand the summary list of recommended sizes at this time because the national defense program is requiring the

services of most of the technical labor of the can manufacturing companies who would be required to develop facilities for producing cans that are not now being used in volume. It was felt that in the interest of cooperation with the national defense program it would not be advisable at this time to recommend the use of any can not included in the summary list of recommended sizes. A detailed report will be published in the INFORMATION LETTER regarding the Committee's recommended changes in the list of individual products where such changes did not add to the summary list of sizes.

The Committee also directed its secretary to assemble more complete data to serve as a basis for Committee action on suggestions relating to changes of can sizes for certain products, and discussed two proposed legislative bills for standardizing containers. It was the unanimous opinion of the Committee members, that, owing to the demands that have been made on the can manufacturing industry by the national defense program, it would not be feasible at this time to consider major changes in the industry's use of containers.

Expansion of Home Economics Work

Wilmot P. Rogers, reporting for Chairman Dan Gerber of the Home Economics Committee, told the Board of plans for a considerable expansion by which about double the amount of field work will be undertaken. Members of the Home Economics staff will extend their traveling schedules, and Mr. Rogers urged canners to support such efforts in their individual communities by obtaining radio time on local stations, and by booking speaking engagements for the staff on the programs of women's clubs and other organizations which lend themselves to furtherance of the canned foods message.

There will be a considerable increase in educational and contact work in teaching fields. A Manual for Teaching Canned Foods, available for teachers, and a student consumer leaflet, to be available for distribution in quantity, are both now in preparation.

This enlargement of the scope of home economics work is made possible through the increased appropriation voted at the January convention and approved by the Administrative Council just before the Board meeting went into session.

Plans have been made to provide a special exhibit background, emphasizing the scientific work of the Association, which will be shown at the annual conventions of the American Medical, American Home Economics, American Dietetic, and American Public Health Associations, and the annual meeting of Food Service Directors, and members of the staff will attend these gatherings and be present at the booth to answer questions. Further to spread the gospel of canned foods is a proposed grant to a college for the purpose of establishing institutional recipe work.

Report of Labeling Committee

Karl Kuner Mayer reported for Chairman Howard A. Orr of the Labeling Committee. He stated that the Laboratory is carrying on additional objective tests on mushrooms, turnips, onions, and potatoes. The suggestion of mushroom canners a few years ago that the sizes designated be supported by the number of units per 8-ounce can was approved by the Committee. These are: Tiny—more than 100 mushrooms per can; small—between 60 and 100 mushrooms; medium—between 30 and 60; large—less than 60.

The attention of the Committee has been called to two inconsistencies in the Committee's recommendations for size of units as stated in the labeling manual. The size designations for canned asparagus are those used by the Agricultural Marketing Service, and the size designations for canned ripe olives are those required by the California State law. However, the Committee feels that these particular terms are inconsistent with the general policy of the descriptive labeling program, and hopes that in the near future terms for size designations of these products can be brought into conformity with the general size designations of other canned food products as recommended in the labeling bulletin.

Mr. Mayer introduced Happer Payne, who has been appointed to head up the labeling work of the Association. Mr. Payne told his audience that the canner's job, in labeling procedure, is to do everything possible to make label statements meet the consumer's wants and desires. He described his present work of preparing label data sheets for various commodities, which furnish full descriptive terminology, and stated that every effort will be made to get these sheets into the hands of canners, by use of every possible agency of distribution.

In preliminary meetings in Washington prior to the Board meeting, the Committee had extended a vote of thanks to John L. Baxter for his fine work in representing the industry before Government agencies in connection with the formulation of specifications, had passed a motion that the Laboratory subcommittee proceed as rapidly as possible with the selection of descriptive terms for various canned foods items, and had authorized its employment of additional personnel to further the studies of objective tests for canned foods.

Elmo Roper Explains Consumer Survey

Elmo Roper, who is conducting the public survey on labeling for the Association, described the aims and methods his organization is pursuing, at the luncheon meeting on Friday.

The first premise taken was that the survey should discover (1) the public's attitude towards present canned foods labeling and, (2) the public's desires as to labeling. The procedure started with discussions by key executives of the Roper organization with housewives. These conversations moved from broad generalizations and worked down to specific comment on labeling. From disclosures these preliminary interviews produced, a trial questionnaire was prepared and sent to 20 or more field operators. The answers the test questions evoked furnished the material with which to go out on a nation-wide survey.

Mr. Roper explained the method by which it is found just what constitutes a reliable cross section of the public. In taking a sample, he explained, all constituents of the whole public must be represented in their proper proportion (a) geographically, (b) as to rural and urban residence, (c) as to age, (d) occupation, and (e) economic levels. A further subdivision deals with the category of the woman questioned. Is she the principal planner of the meals in her home and purchaser of the food; a secondary planner and purchaser; or a non-planner and purchaser?

He dealt with the attention given the phraseology of the questions—the avoidance of "loaded words or phrases" so that the survey shall not have a "directed" character. He cited instances where yes or no answers can be brought

about through the mere choice of words or phrases, or the sequence of certain terms in a question.

Having found unloaded and undirected phraseology for the questions that would convey the same impression to every level in the cross section sample, the next problem was the selection of those who do the actual field work. Their requirements were outlined as basic character, native common sense, industry, ability to plan and organize, and acquired skills and education.

With the proper cross section selected, the proper phraseology found, and the staff of field workers appointed, the survey got underway. The information it sought was:

(1) The general attitude towards canned foods; (2) Buying habits—the selection of specific canned foods, the influence of brand names, etc.; (3) How important the label is; (4) What housewives want on the label, and (5) What they want inside the can.

Although not finally tabulated, Mr. Roper told his audience he felt it should provide a useful body of information on the following four points:

(1) Has the canning industry done a good or a bad job in supplying food to the American public?

(2) Is there an active demand for grade labeling, whether Governmental or private industry labeling?

(3) If not, is there a ready receptivity for grade labeling?

(4) Can common denominators of quality be found that will satisfy majorities?

All the way through, Mr. Roper stated, the sole role of his organization is that of a reporter of what the people want.

Discussion of Wage and Hour Regulations

At the invitation of the Association, Edgar Warren, of the Economic Division of the Wage and Hour Administration, discussed with canners the prospective instructions to regional officers and inspectors, now reaching final form. The discussion was entirely informal, and when the final field instructions are issued within about two weeks, they will be released to the industry by the Association.

Resolution Adopted on Tin Conservation

The Board passed the following resolution, dealing with tin conservation:

Whereas, United States Government agencies have indicated that it is absolutely necessary to conserve the supply of pig tin in the United States, and

Whereas, the Office of Production Management of the United States has requested tinplate manufacturers to reduce by 10 per cent the amount of tin coating to be applied to the tinplate from which certain foods cans are to be fabricated this year, and

Whereas, the canning industry of the United States is desirous of cooperating in the Defense Program, with the Office of Production Management in the conservation of tin; therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Canners Association place itself on record as approving the efforts of the Office of Production Management, to conserve the supplies of tin within the United States and its possessions; and be it further

Resolved, that should the Government issue a license permitting the export of tinplate to any foreign government or its nationals, the Government of the United States request such foreign government or its nationals supply within a

reasonable time the amount of pig tin equivalent to the tin used on the tinplate so exported; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Association be, and he is hereby instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Office of Production Management of the United States.

Further Action of the Board

The Board approved January 25, 1942, as the date, and Chicago as the place, for the 35th annual convention of the Association, and the budget, details of which were presented by Marc C. Hutchinson, Chairman of the Executive Committee, was adopted with slight revisions.

An engrossed copy of the resolution adopted at the last annual convention in January, expressing the appreciation of the Association for the achievements of the retiring president, Herbert F. Krimendahl, was presented to Mr. Krimendahl during the Board's meeting.

Meetings of State Secretaries

Representatives of 22 State and regional canning associations attended the Board meetings at the invitation of the Association, and under the chairmanship of their president, William A. Free, of York, Pa., held two supplementary sessions of their own.

At these meetings they received greetings from Association President Paulus, formulated questions for presentation at the question and answer panel on defense purchases, heard Wilmot P. Rogers of the Home Economics Committee outline methods by which the secretaries could cooperate with the expanded field work of the Home Economics Division, and discussed such current industry problems as the possibility for piece work rates under the Wage and Hours Act, possible deferment from the selective service draft of key men in canning plants, possible use of W.P.A. and C.C.C. labor for harvesting of canning crops, and legislative matters that would be of interest to their membership.

At their second session Thursday, Merle Vincent of the Wage and Hours Division discussed with them a number of labor problems of interest to the secretaries and the Division. No action was taken on this question.

Canada Admits Orange and Lemon Juices

The Canadian curb on the importation of canned fruit juices was relaxed slightly on April 21 when the Minister of National Revenue removed orange juice and lemon juice from the list of goods prohibited from importation under the War Exchange Conservation Act of 1940. Previously, grapefruit juice was the only other fruit juice not prohibited from importation.

National Nutrition Conference Convenes

Registration May 26 at the opening of the three-day National Nutrition Conference for Defense indicated a large attendance as delegates went into general sessions. Section meetings, held during the afternoon of May 26, included one on "Nutrition Problems in Distribution and Processing of Foods." Theme of the meeting was to be the public health and its bearing on the efficiency and morale of the people.

Government Officials in Attendance

H. C. Albin, Chief, Purchase Division, Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, U. S. D. A.

Dr. E. C. Auchter, Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. D. A.

John L. Baxter, Special Adviser, Subsistence Branch, Division of Purchases, Office of Production Management.

C. E. Birgfeld, Assistant Chief, Merchandise Unit, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

W. E. Braithwaite, Division of Simplified Practice, National Bureau of Standards.

H. Banks Collings, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Surplus Marketing Administration, U. S. D. A.

Brigadier General C. L. Corbin, Office of the Quartermaster General, War Department.

Howard Cunningham, Chief, Subsistence Branch, Division of Purchases, Office of Production Management.

Edwin W. Ely, Chief, Division of Simplified Practice, National Bureau of Standards.

J. H. Hamilton, Subsistence Branch, Division of Purchases, Office of Production Management.

Philip Hatch, Assistant Chief, Purchase Division, Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation.

Leon Henderson, Director, Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, Office for Emergency Management.

Charles E. Jackson, Assistant Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior.

Lt. Col. P. P. Logan, Office of the Quartermaster General, War Department.

Douglas MacKeachie, Deputy Director of Purchases, Office of Production Management.

Allen W. Manchester, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, U. S. D. A.

Lee R. Pennington, Inspector, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Milo Perkins, Administrator, Surplus Marketing Administration, U. S. D. A.

Porter R. Taylor, Chief, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Surplus Marketing Administration, U. S. D. A.

Carl Wooster, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, U. S. D. A.

Publications on Tomato Insects and Truck Crop Diseases Issued by California Station

Continuation by the California Agricultural Experiment Station of studies started in 1935 relating to insects attacking tomatoes in California, has resulted in the publication of a recent bulletin by that station, No. 644, entitled "Investigations of Caterpillars Attacking Tomatoes in Northern California During 1939." Special attention was given to the corn earworm (tomato fruitworm) in these studies, and recommendations regarding its control are included. Observations also are recorded on occurrence and distribution of tomato pinworm.

Another publication by this station, Circular 199, entitled "Diseases of Truck Crops," contains information helpful to growers of a number of such crops in California, including description and control recommendations for a large number of diseases of vegetable crops, among which are asparagus, beans, beets, carrots, spinach, and tomatoes.

Copies of both of these publications are available on request addressed to the Association's Raw Products Bureau.

REVIEW OF ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

The following memorandum, on certain phases of the work carried on by the Association, since the annual convention, was prepared by the staff and presented to the Board of Directors. Other aspects of the activities of the Association were discussed during the Board's meeting and are reported elsewhere in this issue of the LETTER.

Development of the national defense program, stimulated by the Lend-Lease Act and the need of speeding up aid to Great Britain, has added to the problems confronting industries and their trade organizations since the beginning of the year. It is impossible to operate on the basis of "business as usual," even if there were any wish to do so. The present-day problem for every industry and every trade association, is to do the emergency job, do it adequately, and do it in such a way as to make the least possible trouble for the future.

This means that to the regular activities of the Association there have been added, and will continue to be added during the emergency, new work that must be done, and done well and speedily, if the Association is to serve the industry efficiently. It means, too, that the Association will have to make more calls upon the time and energy of its officers, its committees, and its members, for the simple reason that the ability of the Association to do the right kind of a job depends largely upon membership aid and cooperation. The Association needs information and sound counsel; it needs active participation in committee work and conferences; it needs the personal interest of every canner in its work.

Needless to say, there may be times when the Association will be asked by the industry to do things that it will be unable to accomplish, not because it fails to try, but because the thing is impossible to do. There will be times, too, as in the first World War, when an immediate emergency calls for action quite different from ordinary procedures, in which the Association is unable to function as otherwise it would. There may be times also when the industry is itself not agreed upon what is to be done, and in such cases the Association can only follow its long-time policy of refraining from action whenever there is not agreement within the industry itself.

Situation at Time of the Convention

When the canners met in Chicago in January, they were given a fairly definite idea of the canned food requirements for the country—both for civilian use and for the defense forces—during the coming year. The one big, unknown factor was what might be needed for Great Britain and its allies and for relief purposes. Despite this, canners had to go ahead with their plans for acreage and production, using their best judgment as to what they should do both to produce enough goods for all purposes and to maintain their ordinary markets on a stable basis so they could function in the years to come.

At the time of the convention the Association made every effort to acquaint the industry with the defense program as it would affect the industry during the coming year's packing season. For several months the Association had cooperated with the National Defense Council and Army and Navy officials in furnishing information, and had had their cooperation in laying out plans by which the industry could effectively do its part in carrying forward the defense program.

During the second week in February the Association, at the request of the Office of Production Management, mailed to all canners a letter and form which they might use to request that they be listed to receive invitations to bid on canned food supplies for the Army. The Army desired to get the names

of prospective bidders in anticipation of the establishment of a centralized buying system, through which the issue-rations for the Army would be bought by the quartermaster depots in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco.

Centralized purchasing, it was expected, could be started about the first of April, but this was not feasible. Accordingly, the Army continued to make its purchases of issue-rations through the principal quartermaster supply offices—about eight in number—and canners were advised, through the INFORMATION LETTER, to get their names on the list of bidders maintained by these offices. The manner in which the centralized purchasing officer will operate was indicated by the invitations issued April 14 by the Chicago depot quartermaster for 250,000 cases of tomatoes.

Increased Requirements Become Known

In April came the answer, in part at least, to the question of what foods might be required for shipment abroad—what would be needed over and above our own requirements. It then became known that the Surplus Marketing Administration would make food purchases with funds available under the Lend-Lease Act, for Great Britain and other countries resisting aggression, as well as for the Red Cross, relief, etc.

Milo Perkins, administrator of the Surplus Marketing Administration and president of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, called a conference on April 14, to which he invited secretaries of State canners associations in vegetable (principally tomato) canning states, the secretaries of the tomato, corn, pea, and green and wax bean sections of the National Canners Association, and a number of individually invited canners. At this conference announcement was made of the Corporation's intention to buy 15,000,000 cases of tomatoes over and above the amounts required for the civilian population and defense forces of the United States. The purchases are to cover the period ending June 30, 1942. The chief problems discussed at the conference were methods of obtaining the additional acreage needed and the provisions of the purchase contracts. The Corporation stated it would buy some spot stocks but chiefly futures. The first invitation to canners to submit tenders on canned tomatoes was sent out by the Corporation on April 21. These were for spot stocks. The first invitations for futures were issued May 6, and tenders will be received on the first and third Tuesdays of each month until August 1. The Corporation indicated its intention to purchase corn, peas, and green and wax beans, but in relatively small amounts.

Importance of Mutual Understanding

Because it is human nature to be impatient, one aspect of the present situation perhaps deserves some comment. Those entrusted with direction of the defense program, who know the goal toward which they are driving, may become impatient with those who have to carry the load toward that goal. Similarly, those whose job it is to carry the load may become impatient when the program must be altered, or when there is hesitation or delay among the leaders to whom they look for direction. Undoubtedly, both time and energy will be lost while an adequate, smooth-working organization is being developed. Such is the history of all big jobs that require cooperation from widely separated and widely differing interests.

This is no time to become impatient, except with those who mistake petty criticism for constructive effort. It does not mean that there is no place for criticism of a constructive character, for such criticism is the very thing that makes for sound organization and real progress, and it can not be safely ignored. On the other hand, there is no place for mere complaints and bickerings, no place for putting individual,

selfish interests ahead of the broader aims of the whole program.

This meeting of the Board of Directors brings together a group that is genuinely representative of the entire canning industry, and it is fortunate that government officials in charge of various phases of the defense program will be present to tell you about the purpose and the scope of the activities they are directing. Every man who has a job to do as part of a big program likes to know the men who head up the job; every leader likes to know the sort of men with whom he is working. Today's meeting affords an opportunity for a better acquaintance with both the task in hand and the men who are engaged upon it.

Membership and Finance

Membership of the Association has been well maintained since the annual convention. As of May 16, the Association had received returns from all but 40 of its members, and returns that undoubtedly will come in later will increase the case-basis on which membership dues are assessed.

At present, the seasonal product membership is 128,500,000 cases and the non-seasonal, 42,800,000 cases. This compares with 121,000,000 and 39,000,000 cases, respectively, at the time of the Board meeting a year ago. The estimate on which the 1941 tentative budget was based was 128,000,000 cases of seasonal and 40,000,000 cases of non-seasonal products.

Dues paid by members from January to May 16 have been about \$18,000 more than payments during the corresponding period last year.

To meet the many new problems developing from the defense program, the industry needs the strongest and most representative national organization that can be developed. The Association has for many years depended upon the voluntary assistance of its members in building up and maintaining its membership. The Association's officers, and those in charge of its various activities, hope that each member will constitute himself an active worker to increase the number of canners affiliated with their national organization.

Research Laboratories

Studies for the Labeling Committee.—These studies have been expanded considerably with a view to formulating definitions and developing objective tests for a greater number of products than has been covered in any one period in the past. Since early in the year, a special assistant has been working exclusively on analytical methods applicable to objective tests. Work has been done on stringless beans, pears, and asparagus.

Preparations have been made for full-time work on corn during the packing season. With this product, maturity studies will be carried on along the lines of that done in previous years. Controlled experimental packs will be put up in different canning sections, attempting as far as possible to cover the variables that are known to exist. The unusual number of varieties, and distinct differences between them, will make necessary a large number of samples. Studies on the consistency of cream style corn also will be carried on. Preliminary investigations last season indicated that satisfactory experimental packs can be prepared so that members of the Labeling Committee may have before them a series of samples showing gradations in consistency.

The examination of samples of green and wax beans assembled last year from commercial packs of the 1940 season has been completed and results have been tabulated in accordance with the analytical data. The committee on these products will judge the samples in relation to the data. Additional work will be programmed this season if deemed

necessary. The need for a standard of quality for green and wax beans has been suggested and the information obtained in these labeling studies will be helpful in considering any standard that may be proposed.

Fruit Juice Survey.—Among projects approved for this year was a survey of methods used in packing fruit and vegetable juices. It was felt that information gained in such a survey would place the Laboratory in a better position to deal with problems related to these products, and especially to render assistance whenever standards are considered.

During February and March, visits were made to citrus canning areas in southern Texas and in Florida, for the purpose of collecting information on current methods and practices in the canning of grapefruit and orange juices. Sixteen plants were visited in Texas and 18 in Florida. In addition, contacts were established or renewed with research workers in both districts and information was obtained as to their activities relating to citrus juices.

It is planned to extend this survey to other fruit juices and to vegetable juices as the season progresses.

Tin Conservation Project.—It is well known that tin is included in the list of strategic war materials as a result of the dependence on foreign sources for United States requirements. Existing tin stocks in this country are estimated at more than one year's supply and no tin shortage is imminent. The Office of Production Management has announced its desire to increase the tin stock pile, however, and this is evidenced by the recent request of this agency that tinplate and can manufacturers reduce the use of tin in tinplate for certain purposes.

The tin conservation project undertaken by the Association in cooperation with the American and Continental Can Companies was suggested by Lt. Col. Paul P. Logan as part of the general program of tin conservation. It had as its object a study of the practicability of reducing the amount of tin on tinplate used for food containers. Experimental packs consisted of 12 typical food products, selected to represent major classes with reference to their action on tinplate. Two different coating-weights were used, and the packs were placed at constant temperature at 85°F. from the time of arrival in Washington. These packs now have been under incubation for about six months and two cuttings have taken place. Analyses made as a result of these cuttings have included chemical, physical, and organoleptic tests. When results justify, a special report on the project will be prepared.

Bacteriological Studies.—Much of the work of the bacteriological unit has been in preparation for forthcoming field studies on peas, corn, and tomato juice. For the most part, field activities this season will be in the East, including the Tri-States and New York areas. A minor project is planned for the Middle West.

In accordance with action taken at the processing conference, several experimentally inoculated packs of soaked dried beans and peas have been, or will be made as a basis for future process recommendations.

A program for the study of the effect of curing salts, especially nitrate, on the growth and heat resistance of *Cl botulinum* has been developed with the cooperation of the Meat Committee and work has progressed for a period of several weeks. The program includes a study of the effect in media of the salts, both alone and in combination, and will be followed by work on cured meat for canning. Results to date are striking with respect to the effect of nitrate in inhibiting the growth of the test organism.

Mold Count Survey.—The mold count survey conducted last season has been completed and the results examined. Findings were discussed with a special technical group and

a brief was submitted to the Food and Drug Administration. The data obtained from the survey is considered to justify the request that the mold count tolerance be raised from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. Findings with regard to concentrated products were inconclusive and no petition was made with regard to them. An early decision on the part of the Food and Drug Administration is hoped for.

[Subsequent to the preparation of this report, Food and Drugs Commissioner W. G. Campbell issued a trade notice granting a 20 per cent mold count tolerance on tomato juice. Details are published elsewhere in this issue of the LETTER.]

Waste Disposal.—In some instances cannery wastes are discharged into small streams or dry runs with little or no treatment other than screening. Complaints are likely to arise when such water courses flow near dwellings. The use of sodium nitrate in amounts less than that required in lagoons appears to offer possibilities as a control measure. While stream conditions cannot be duplicated in the laboratory, preliminary information on maximum nitrate dosage rates will be of value in practical field tests. Laboratory work on this phase of waste disposal is under way and field studies will be made this summer. In addition, studies will be made at several municipal disposal plants which treat combined domestic sewage and cannery waste.

Miscellaneous Laboratory Studies.—Recent developments with reference to vitamin and mineral fortification of flour have centered popular and industrial attention on the subject. Many persons, including food producers and students of nutrition, advocate fortification on a wide scale both with respect to classes of products and the elements of fortification. The Laboratory does not now contemplate undertaking active work on fortification of canned foods, but it is recognized that the subject is of such broad interest that special study must be given to its trend and application to other branches of the food industry. With this in mind, studies on chemical tests for vitamins, as in the case of carotene (provitamin A) and ascorbic acid (vitamin C), have been made and attention has been given to other chemical and physical methods for vitamin determination.

Raw Products Research Bureau

The objective of the Raw Products Bureau is the promotion of needed research on canners' crop problems on the part of the agricultural experiment stations, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and similar agencies. Canners and growers are acquainted with many of the helpful accomplishments of these organizations throughout the years, such as the development of Golden Cross Bantam and other types of hybrid sweet corn, the breeding of wilt-resistant varieties of tomatoes and peas, mosaic-resistant beans, and the production of better varieties of peaches and other fruits. Increased attention now is being given to more effective control of tomato defoliation diseases. In each of these programs the Raw Products Bureau has played its part. This cooperative role has been carried forward until now nearly every agricultural experiment station in the leading canning States has some kind of research program relating directly to canning crops improvement. Many of these are cooperative with or supplementary to the research carried on throughout the country by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

New Research on Rotenone Dusts.—One of the principal production problems of our pea canning members is control of pea aphid, in which interesting new developments have arisen since the January convention. As an outgrowth of a meeting of entomologists, held in December, 1940, and subsequent conferences of the director of the Bureau with State and Federal research groups, a standardized dust, prepared under official supervision is to be used this summer by entomologists in Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, New Jersey, Wis-

consin, New York, and Utah. Comparison of this standardized dust with other materials during the coming season may develop valuable information regarding temperature range, moisture and other conditions that determine the efficiency of rotenone dusts in controlling pea aphid.

Canning Crops Research in the South.—During recent years a number of the southern experiment stations have become interested in research pointing towards improvement of vegetables and fruits for canning, such as better plant nutrition for citrus fruits, peaches, tomatoes and pimientos, and the relation of fertilizer and cultural practices to the canning quality of the crop. Opportunity to get closer to this work was accorded in February this year by attendance at meetings of the Southern Section of the American Society for Horticultural Science and the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers, in Atlanta. These conferences brought together a large number of agricultural scientists, whose work is of considerable potential importance to the canning industry.

Raw Products Schools.—During the late winter and early spring, a number of the agricultural colleges conduct short courses, or schools, to which canners and their field men are invited. Programs and discussions are designed to bring to the attention of the industry any new information developed by the experiment stations which would be helpful in dealing with crop problems. These meetings, many of which were promoted by the Bureau some years ago, and which have expanded widely since, also furnish an excellent opportunity for canners to become acquainted with the personnel of their State agricultural experiment stations, and to acquire more intimate knowledge of the work of the station as a whole. Such schools visited by the director of the Raw Products Bureau since the January convention include those in Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. The director attends as many of these gatherings as possible, since they offer an especially good setting in which to bring the practical viewpoint of field men and canners into close touch with the research viewpoint and to promote the cooperation of all parties in solving problems involved in the specialized growing of crops for canning.

In similar fashion the Raw Products conferences held in connection with the January convention present an opportunity for canners to bring up questions regarding field problems on which they desire information and assistance. Whenever possible, such questions were answered during the conferences, while those requiring more or less extended study and compilation of data have been handled through correspondence following adjournment of the convention.

Change in Publication Policy.—A series of publications on separate crops, or groups of crops, containing summaries of research progress, will bring information to our members, we believe, in the most convenient form to use, and accordingly, as announced in January, this method is supplanting the former policy of issuing comprehensive reviews of agricultural progress in the form of annual reports. Bulletins on tomatoes and on peas have been issued, and a third publication, containing the results of experiments dealing with a group of crops, including asparagus, beans, beets, carrots, lima beans, mushrooms, pumpkins and squash, peppers, spinach, and sweet potatoes, soon will be sent to members. This report, combined with those on peas and tomatoes, provides a source of reference for field men and others who wish to keep in close touch with progress in canning crops improvement.

Response of members to the service inaugurated last year whereby copies of many of the latest publications issued by experiment stations are furnished by the Raw Products Bureau upon request, indicates a growing demand for crop

information in this form also. Such bulletins and circulars, supplementing reports on agricultural research from the Bureau, enable canners and their field men to keep up to date on new methods of obtaining better crops at lower cost.

Consumer Complaint Service

In consumer complaint work a wide difference usually is found between the amount sued for and the actual damage, if any, suffered by the complainant. Two recent case-histories, drawn from suits that have come to trial in recent months, serve to illustrate this point.

An unusual jury case in the East involved serious illness alleged to be due to a canned vegetable product. The amount sued for was \$30,000 and plaintiff's counsel up to the time of trial had requested \$5,000 to settle. Though the plaintiff claimed the product had caused her to suffer a severe colitis, on trial she was unable to produce sufficient medical testimony to support this contention. The jurors, therefore, were instructed to consider only the question of whether she had experienced a food poisoning from the product, as claimed. Following their discharge, when they were unable to reach an agreement, it was learned that not one juror was, at any time, in favor of giving the plaintiff more than \$150, and that towards the end of their deliberations, the vote had been nine to three for awarding the plaintiff \$28, which was the amount of one of the doctor bills presented in evidence. Happily, in one sense, but unfortunately, in another (since probably there will have to be a second trial), the three jurors who were unable to agree with their colleagues remained adamant in their decision that a verdict against the defendant in any amount, however small, would be an unjust reflection on the defendant's good name.

In another case, in the Middle West, five plaintiffs sued for a total of \$5,300, charging illness from a canned vegetable, which case probably also will have to be tried again because of a hung jury. After the trial, it was found that the jurors first stood, three in favor of granting the plaintiffs \$10 apiece, and nine for the defendant. After further deliberations, the three jurors who wanted to find for the plaintiffs agreed that 20 cents each would be sufficient for them! They succeeded in persuading six of the other nine jurors to join them in agreement on such an award, but the remaining three held steadfastly that their verdict should be for the defendant.

In the first case, a \$30,000 damage claim dwindled to \$28; in the second, it receded from \$5,300 to one dollar! It can hardly be said that the amount sued for in most consumer complaints is any real measure of the actual damage, if any, that has been suffered.

Further in support of this premise are the interesting figures disclosed in the last semi-annual report of the Association's New York counsel—Breed, Abbott & Morgan. The total amount sued for in suits they have defended was \$86,000, while the total amount collected by plaintiffs was \$387. They settled 26 suits aggregating \$33,750 for \$1,248—an average of \$48 each.

Out of all claims filed during 1939 (2,174), 260 have resulted in suits, or 12 per cent. Sixty-nine of these suits have gone to trial, with 21 resulting in verdicts for the defense, 29 dismissed or discontinued, and verdicts awarded the plaintiff in 19 cases. Ninety-five other suits were settled at the request of canners, or by their insurers, and 96 still are pending. Since the last report to the Board of Directors in January, one contribution of \$528 has been made from the protective fund, towards payment of a judgment. The year 1939 is the latest for which such figures would have much value, because the final disposition of the 1940 claims is far from completion.

A new plan, inaugurated two years ago, has been continued this past year with success. This is the offering, on the canner's behalf, of a gift assortment of canned foods to complainants who apparently are honest and in cases where little, if any, illness or injury was suffered. A considerable number of cases have been adjusted amicably in this manner.

It is gratifying for the Consumer Complaint Service to be able to report a slight falling off in the number of complaints reported so far this year. The comparison is 910 against 944 last year. The Association, through its local counsel, is handling the defense of 326 suits, as of May 1.

A number of Association members now are carrying product liability insurance, presumably to cover possible judgments or settlements up to \$1,000 and over \$25,000. The Consumer Complaint Service is available to all members in good standing, whether they carry such insurance or not, but if a member is insured, requests for the service must come from the member rather than the insurance company. The chief difficulty in handling claims for insured members is the delay in getting decisions, since the canner must consult his insurer on any decision, and keep him posted, in order to be certain that his (the canner's) rights under his policy are protected.

Division of Statistics

Defense Activities.—The National Defense Advisory Commission, through the Office of Production Management, has been making use of services carried on for members by the Division of Statistics. O.P.M. has turned to the Division for the monthly reports of stocks of canned vegetables, and special reports on stocks of canned fruits and canned fish, assembled by the various State and regional associations and compiled by the Division, have been used to furnish N.D.A.C. with information on current supplies of these items. In numerous other ways Government defense agencies have called on the organized services of the Division, which has cooperated in the preparation of estimates of canned foods requirements for our armed forces. A considerable part of the tabulation work involved in preparation of the program for Army and Navy purchases has been performed by the Division staff, which also has been called upon by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation for assistance in the development of its program for purchases of canned foods under the Lend-Lease Act.

Stocks and Shipments.—The Division has continued to issue reports on stocks and shipments of the principal canned vegetables on the following time schedules:

Monthly—Corn, peas, tomatoes, green and wax beans, tomato juice, and cherries.

Quarterly—Lima beans and beets.

Annual (as of March 1)—Tomato catsup.

A request of lima bean canners for a more frequent reporting service is under consideration. Plans for this will be worked out with member canners with the hope of making them effective as of June 1.

Pack Statistics.—The 1940 pack statistics of canned vegetables were published in March, 1940. Canned fruit pack statistics are in preparation now and will be issued in bulletin form before the end of May.

Canner-Grower Relations.—Information is being assembled now for publication of a canner-grower bulletin on green and wax beans, which probably will be ready for press this Summer.

Crop Condition Reports.—Every week the Division prepares for publication in the INFORMATION LETTER details of pea crop conditions, along with reports of temperature and rainfall in the pea-growing districts. This service was in-

augured last year and is being repeated this season at the request of pea canners, whose field and production men assist by furnishing the information which is summarized by the Division weekly.

Simplification of Containers.—Suggestions for changes in the lists of recommended can sizes set forth in Simplified Practice Recommendation R155-40, issued by the National Bureau of Standards in January, were assembled and tabulated by the Division, and along with other problems relating to simplification of containers were presented to the Association's Simplification of Container Committee when it met.

Service Work.—The general service work of the Division, consisting of the compilation of economic and statistical information for Association members and various committees, continues to be one of its principal functions, the results of which are disseminated in numerous ways—through the LETTER, by individual and group correspondence, in interviews, and at meetings and conferences of member groups.

Home Economics Division

Chief activities of the Home Economics Division, since the January convention, have been 17 weeks of field work, the continuous program in the Service Kitchen, and the preparation of a teacher's manual and consumer leaflet on canned foods.

The following 36 cities have been visited on the field trips: Chicago; Kansas City, Missouri; Lawrence, Topeka, and Manhattan, Kansas; Denver, Fort Collins, Boulder, and Littleton, Colorado; Ogden, and Salt Lake City, Utah; Reno, Nevada; San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, San Jose, and Del Monte, California; Columbus, Toledo, and Cleveland, Ohio; New York City; Providence, Rhode Island; Boston, and Newton, Mass.; Portland, Orono, and Farmington, Maine; Omaha, Nebraska; Deadwood, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Indianapolis, Indiana; Richmond, Roanoke, Radford, Blacksburg, and Williamsburg, Virginia.

In each city visited, contacts were made by Ruth Atwater, Marjorie H. Black, and Katherine R. Smith with school, college, and university groups and with homemakers through such club organizations as the Parent-Teacher Association and Federated Clubs, with the Red Cross, and with extension groups. Talks also were given before an advertising club, a manufacturers' industrial show, a restaurant association, a State dietetic and State home economics convention, and several State canners' meetings. The staff appeared as guests on 12 broadcasts in nine different cities.

At each canners' meeting addressed by members of the staff, the work of the Division and its services to the industry were emphasized. Miss Atwater spoke at the Utah Canners convention, Ogden, Utah, and at the Canners League meeting, Del Monte, California. Miss Black appeared before the Indiana Canners Association, Indianapolis, Indiana.

A wider distribution of the publications of the Division has been made possible by the increase in appropriation granted for this work at the January convention. As always is the case, the intensive field work in which the Division has engaged has stimulated additional requests for the publications.

Nutrition defense committees have been established in nearly every State and in the District of Columbia. The staff of the Division is cooperating with this work.

Work in the Service Kitchen has continued along the two general lines, that of developing recipes for consumer booklets, and developing or testing recipes for individual canners.

Information Division

Conditions under which the industry now is operating, and will continue to operate until the present emergency passes, require that the Association furnish to its members as regularly and as promptly as possible such authoritative information as will assist canners to meet their day-to-day problems. For a number of years the weekly INFORMATION LETTER has been the medium used for this purpose, and the scope of its coverage has been extended as occasion required. The LETTER is essentially an information service—not a general business publication—and its editorial policy is to bring together, for the canner, factual information relating to his business which is not elsewhere readily available.

As to editorial policy it seems pertinent to repeat a statement recently appearing in the INFORMATION LETTER that the Association has long followed the policy of publishing in the LETTER only reports and information derived from sources it considers authoritative. It has not attempted to forecast either policies or actions, nor has it given circulation to mere rumors or conjectures. Each issue will present such reliable information as is available at the time of publication. This statement also pointed out that with events now moving so rapidly, the facts as of one day may not correctly represent the situation as of the next day. The best that can be done is to make the record as complete and as accurate as possible with the resources at the Association's command.

That the LETTER is helpful to members is evident from commendatory correspondence received; that more canners could make it helpful is evidenced by the fact that very frequently questions received from members are best answered by sending some copy of the LETTER in which the subject asked about has been fully discussed. For this reason members are urged not only to read each week's LETTER carefully, but to maintain a permanent file of them for reference purposes.

The INFORMATION DIVISION will welcome both suggestions and criticisms that will aid it to improve the LETTER so as to make it more useful to the membership.

Labeling

Following the annual convention, the Labeling Committee proceeded with plans for the consumer survey authorized by the Board of Directors and also arranged for the addition to the Association's staff of a director of labeling activities.

After careful preliminary study of the problems involved in the consumer survey, the field it is desired to cover, and the research organizations available for conducting such a survey, the Committee approved the selection of Elmo Roper. The high standing of his organization in the field of public opinion surveys assures both the adequacy and accuracy of the work undertaken.

To head up the labeling work of the Association, the Labeling Committee approved the appointment of Happer Payne, formerly with the promotion department of Good Housekeeping.

Considerable preliminary ground work has been done, the most important and effective part of which is the preparation and distribution of a bulletin of the Labeling Committee and the compilation and printing of individual data sheets for individual products. The bulletin "spells out" the construction of a descriptive label. It has been mailed to all canners, whether members of National Canners Association or not; all members of the National American Wholesale Grocers, U. S. Wholesale Grocers, and National Food Brokers Associations and the membership of the Super Market Institute; all label manufacturers, with sufficient copies for their salesmen; members of the Canning Machinery & Supplies Association; all can companies, and copies for their sales-

men; the trade papers, consumer magazines and many newspapers; and to miscellaneous interested individuals.

Label data sheets for 11 products have been printed and will soon be distributed. These data sheets are being reproduced by the Label Manufacturers National Association in proper size to fit into salesmen's note books. This Association is distributing these reproductions to all their members in proper quantities to accommodate salesmen of each firm.

Proper steps are being taken to put these data sheets into the hands of salesmen of other label manufacturers.

The preparation of this material is tedious but the data sheets are the most effective means of speeding up the process of label improvement.

Numerous contracts have been made with food editors of magazines and with trade paper editors. Articles on labeling have appeared in *Modern Packaging*, *Progressive Grocer*, *Super Market Merchandising*, *The Canner*, and the *New York Journal of Commerce*.

Broker and Wholesaler meetings have been held in Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Detroit. Total attendance came to approximately 200. These meetings are purely educational and for the purpose of discussing descriptive labeling.

A talk was made at the United States Wholesale Grocers convention in Chicago, May 6, and another, on descriptive labeling, at a consumer meeting in Indianapolis under auspices of the Better Business Bureau. Other talks are scheduled and more will be arranged.

F.S.C.C. BUYS TOMATO FUTURES

Also Issues Second Spot Invitation—Record of Weekly S.M.A. Purchases

The Department of Agriculture announced on May 22 that the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation had contracted to buy 524,600 cases of tomatoes from the pack of the current season. The announcement followed the second opening of bids on tomato futures since the F.S.C.C. made its request of the industry for 15,000,000 additional cases. There was no acceptance of offers from the first opening of bids on May 8.

Purchases of tomato futures were made in the following States in the indicated can size:

State	Amount by can size		Total
	No. 2 Cases	No. 2½ Cases	
Arkansas.....	240,000	.....	240,000
California.....	.....	132,600	132,600
Indiana.....	60,000	30,000	90,000
Maryland.....	33,000	.....	33,000
Virginia.....	26,000	3,000	29,000
Total.....	359,000	165,600	524,600

A second invitation to canners to submit bids on spot stocks of tomatoes was made on the same day. These bids were opened on May 27; but no announcement of purchases had been made at the time the INFORMATION LETTER went to press.

The Surplus Marketing Administration announced that during the week ending May 24 there had been purchased 393,736 bags of dry beans, 130,615 pounds of fresh uncapped strawberries, 1,505 cases of California pilchards, and 100,000 pounds of dehydrated soups. These purchases and the purchases of other items of interest to canners will be found in the table below, along with the total quantities

purchased since March 15. A separate table records the dry bean purchases made during the week and since March 15 by State and by variety:

TOTAL PURCHASES OF SELECTED COMMODITIES

Commodities	Purchases	
	May 19-May 24	March 15-May 24
Dry beans (bags).....	393,736	1,083,371
Pilchards, canned (cases).....	1,505	219,436
Mackerel, canned (cases).....	.....	33,500
Milk, evaporated (cases).....	10,000	1,662,000
Apples, fresh (bushels).....	128,224	1,462,342
Oranges, fresh (boxes).....	46,200	255,024
Strawberries, fresh (pounds).....	130,615	130,615
Soups, dehydrated (pounds).....	100,000	100,000
Carrots (tons).....	.....	301
Pork products, canned (pounds).....	271,350	42,952,198
Pork products, cured (pounds).....	900,000	78,703,500
Pork and beans (cases).....	.....	23,300
Prunes, dried (tons).....	.....	10,000
Grapefruit, fresh (tons).....	.....	9,393
Grapefruit, juice (cases).....	.....	678,335
Grapefruit, segments (cases).....	.....	398,418
Tomatoes, canned, spots (cases).....	.....	618,675
Tomatoes, canned, futures (cases).....	524,600	524,600

DRY BEAN PURCHASES

Variety	Purchases	
	May 19-May 24 Bags	March 15-May 24 Bags
Great Northern:		
Idaho.....	50,600	279,200
Wyoming.....	700	21,000
Montana.....	2,100	18,400
Pintos:		
Idaho.....	5,600	8,400
New Mexico.....	.....	700
Colorado.....	30,800	82,000
California.....	18,936	54,463
Wyoming.....	1,400	4,200
Utah.....	2,800	2,800
Pinks: California.....	38,700	100,502
Blackeyes: California.....	7,800	78,406
Pea Beans:		
New York.....	2,000	12,500
Michigan.....	217,800	406,300
Small whites: California.....	14,500	14,500
Total.....	393,736	1,083,371

Employers' Duty on Deferment Problem

It is the duty of employers to determine exactly what part any employee who is a Selective Service registrant is playing in the defense production pattern, and of every registrant to search his own qualifications and patriotically answer the question, "where can I best serve my Nation now," according to Brigadier General Lewis B. Hershey, Deputy Director of Selective Service, speaking before the Advertising Federation of America, in Boston, Mass., May 24.

His comment throws light on inquiries some canners have been making as to what they should do in the matter of deferments and classification of registrants in their employ. "In some cases," stated General Hershey, "employers have refused to accept any responsibility for requesting deferments and have placed on the local board the entire task of attempting to determine the value of an employee whose worth was known primarily to his employer and to no one else."

"If the registrants, the members of the Registrants' Advisory boards, and the employers perform well their duty," General Hershey said, "I am not disturbed about the action of our local boards. I have the assurance that comes with considerable knowledge in this field which makes me believe that the great majority of the local boards will place the individual in the place in the national pattern that the information made available to them indicates."

GREEN PEAS FOR PROCESSING

Agricultural Marketing Service Reports Acreage 13 Per Cent over 1940 Plantings

On the basis of reports to the Agricultural Marketing Service from canners and processors, the acreage planted in 1941 to green peas for processing, including freezing, is 383,740 acres. This is an increase of nearly 13 per cent over the 1940 plantings of 340,010 acres and exceeds the 10-year (1930-39) average of 288,100 acres by 33 per cent.

The largest increase is in the Middlewestern States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, where over half of the 1941 estimated plantings are located. The increase in this group is 17 per cent over the 1940 acreage. In Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, the increase in acreage is about 9 per cent and in the Western States of Colorado, Utah, Washington, Oregon and California, this year's estimated increase in acreage is 8 per cent. In the Northeastern States of Maine, New York and Pennsylvania, the indicated expansion is slightly less than 8 per cent.

Of the 383,740 acres estimated for planting this year, 238,820 acres, or 62.2 per cent, consists of sweet wrinkled varieties and 37.8 per cent, or 144,920 acres, were planted to Alaskas, or smooth, round varieties. In 1940, 61.7 per cent or 209,780 acres of the total planted acreage of 340,010, were sweet wrinkled and the remaining 38.3 per cent, or 130,230 acres, were of the Alaska type.

The following tabulation shows for the United States, the total planted acreage of green peas for canning and for freezing in recent years.

	1938	1939*	1940*	Preliminary 1941
	Acrea	Acrea	Acrea	Acrea
Planted for freezing.....	25,360	32,610	35,460	35,290
Planted for canning or other processing.....	309,560	227,100	304,550	348,450
Total.....	334,920	259,710	340,010	383,740

* Revised.

The table below, showing planted acreage by types for 1939 and 1940, and estimated planted acreage for 1941, was compiled by the Agricultural Marketing Service:

State	1939		1940 (Revised)		Indicated 1941	
	Alaska type	Sweet type	Alaska type	Sweet type	Alaska type	Sweet type
	Acrea	Acrea	Acrea	Acrea	Acrea	Acrea
Maine.....		4,410		5,050		4,500
New York.....	3,380	30,470	3,920	35,280	4,280	38,520
Pennsylvania.....	4,090	2,010	3,150	3,850	3,920	4,080
Ohio.....	3,280	1,220	3,960	1,540	4,930	2,220
Indiana.....	5,450	1,450	7,180	2,020	9,440	1,660
Illinois.....	5,260	9,340	6,230	8,970	7,310	10,090
Michigan.....	2,560	3,840	4,270	5,660	4,030	6,670
Wisconsin.....	42,780	26,220	64,560	43,040	72,390	54,610
Minnesota.....	5,570	14,330	8,150	16,550	8,530	19,890
Iowa.....	1,120	380	1,580	920	1,510	1,290
Delaware.....	2,220	280	2,890	120	2,890	60
Maryland.....	14,400	1,600	14,670	1,630	16,000	2,600
Virginia.....	2,980	520	2,760	740	2,690	710
Colorado.....	1,430	1,820	880	3,120	950	3,350
Utah.....	210	10,090	250	12,150		13,650
Washington.....	880	21,120	1,200	28,900	660	32,540
Oregon.....		19,900		29,900		31,400
California.....		3,200		2,390		2,870
Other States.....	4,930	6,970	4,590	7,950	5,400	7,910
Total.....	100,540	159,170	130,230	209,780	144,920	238,820

Requests Information on Inventions That Might be Useful to Armed Services

The National Inventors Council requests heads of research and development departments of firms in industry to review each discovery or development they make in the light of its possible application to the needs of the armed services. The military, naval, and other establishments of the United States Government have such extended ramifications that almost any new industrial idea is likely to be of some interest to them. Disclosures of such discoveries or inventions should be sent to the Council, Room 7424 Commerce Building, Washington, D. C.

The Council has been created by the Secretary of Commerce, with the concurrence of the President, to aid the military and naval branches of the Government by bringing to their attention all such discoveries and mechanisms as appear to have defensive value. It is composed of outstanding American inventors, scientists, and businessmen having wide experience in the development and utilization of inventions.

Food and Drug Bill Introduced in Illinois

A food, drug, and cosmetic bill patterned after the new Federal Act has been introduced in the Illinois legislature and referred to the House Committee on Efficiency and Economy. The bill (House 866) does not contain adequate statements of legislative intent to enact a law uniform with the Federal Act, provision for the intrastate shipment of unlabeled products, and guaranty clause provisions that would protect out-of-state manufacturers and distributors.

CONGRESS SUMMARY

The President on May 26 signed the bill authorizing loans of 85 per cent of parity on five basic farm commodities. In giving the bill his approval, the President warned that the prices for the five commodities, wheat, cotton, corn, rice, and tobacco, must not go above parity.

The House this week began debate of an administration bill to extend for two years the powers of the President and the Secretary of the Treasury relating to the stabilization fund and the regulation of the gold content of the dollar. Under the law at present these powers would terminate on June 30, this year.

An amendment to the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act to make it unlawful for any commission merchant, dealer, or broker who is affiliated by direct or indirect ownership or control with any dealer purchasing fresh fruits or vegetables, and selling more than one-third by volume at retail, to act as a commission merchant or broker for any retail dealer except the retailer dealer with whom he is affiliated, has been introduced in the House by Representative Buck of California. The bill also would prohibit an affiliated commission merchant, dealer, or broker from buying fresh fruits or vegetables for resale to any retail dealer except the one with whom he is affiliated.

The Vinson bill, broadening the statutory power for the establishment of priorities to contracts and orders made under the Lend-Lease Law or in the interests of national defense, was sent to the President for final approval May 23. Con-

ference committee action removed from the bill a House amendment that would have made priority plans subject to the approval of the Joint Army and Navy Munitions Board. The House amendment also would have replaced the present priorities set-up with a new director of priorities and industry committees.

Legislation to provide for prorating among domestic sugar producing areas that portion of the quota of Philippine duty-free sugar that the Philippines are unable to market, was reported to the House, May 22, by the Committee on Agriculture. The bill also would provide for prorating among foreign countries that portion of the full-duty quota of Philippine sugar that the Commonwealth is unable to market. Under the Sugar Act both the duty-free and full-duty Philippine sugars that the Islands are unable to market within their quota are prorated among foreign countries.

A bill dealing with the same subject has been reported to the Senate by the Finance Committee. The Senate bill would allocate to foreign producers up to 75,000 tons of any sugar that the Philippines are unable to market within their quota. Should the unmarketable amount of the Philippine quota exceed 75,000 tons, domestic areas would be allocated the excess.

Senator Johnson of Colorado has introduced a bill to provide for marketing quotas for dry beans and for a penalty of two cents a pound for marketing beans in excess of the quota. The bill would not apply to lima beans or to soy beans.

TOMATO JUICE MOLD TOLERANCE

Food and Drug Will Not Take Enforcement Action Unless Filaments Exceed 20 Per Cent

Enforcement action will not be taken against tomato juice unless mold filaments are present in more than 20 per cent of the microscopic fields, according to a trade notice issued by Food and Drugs Commissioner W. G. Campbell. This action follows the filing April 17 by the Association of a petition which requested an increase in the mold tolerance from 15 per cent to 20 per cent, with supporting data obtained through analysis of a mold survey undertaken during last canning season. Notice of the filing of the petition was published in the INFORMATION LETTER of April 19.

The recent trade notice, addressed to manufacturers of tomato products, follows:

On June 17, 1940, the Administration announced reductions in previously established mold count tolerances for tomato juice, catsup, puree and paste. Subsequently industry appeals from these reductions were received with representations that in spite of the utmost care in properly conducted plants, occasional adverse conditions are reflected in mold counts somewhat exceeding the new tolerances.

The Administration thereupon undertook an exhaustive appraisal of the situation. The facts developed justify the conclusion that in the case of tomato catsup, puree, and paste, it is not unreasonable to expect canners to meet the mold tolerance of 40 per cent of the microscopic fields announced in 1940 and actions will continue against shipments when this figure is exceeded.

In the case of tomato juice, the investigation indicated that under abnormal conditions beyond the control of the packer, mold counts may exceed slightly the tolerance of 15 per cent of the fields announced for tomato juice. In recognition of this possibility, the Administration will not institute actions

against tomato juice on the ground of excessive mold count unless mold filaments are present in more than 20 per cent of the microscopic fields. Adequate allowances will be made in applying the tomato juice tolerance to those articles which have been subjected to a homogenization process. Since the Administration is convinced that with more experience the industry can universally meet more restricted tolerances, the present announcement is subject to the qualification that it is set pending consideration of further reductions.

Comminuted tomato products exceeding these mold count tolerances cannot be used as ingredients of manufactured foods such as tomato soup, spaghetti sauce, etc., since this would constitute adulteration of the fabricated food and render the latter subject to action.

PRIORITY PROBLEM DISCUSSED

Plans Made for Joint Committee of Canning and Machinery Associations

Progress toward a satisfactory method of handling priorities for canning machinery and equipment was made at a meeting of committees representing the National Canners Association and the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association during the week of the spring meeting of the Board of Directors.

At present, the canning industry is on the priority list as one of the necessary industries and has a rating of B-2 for replacement parts and B-3 for replacement of unit machines. However, it seems necessary to obtain recognition of the fact that expansion of the canning industry capacity will be necessary to meet requirements laid upon it if there is a heavy increased demand from the government for its products both for our defense forces and for Great Britain.

During the week a committee representing the two Associations had an interview with Mr. A. D. Whiteside of the Priorities Division of the Office of Production Management, at which there was developed a better understanding of the general situation. Mr. Whiteside asked that a committee be set up to handle the matter for the two Associations and that they act for all members of the industry whether members of the Associations or not.

The general procedure is that a committee will be set up consisting of H. F. Krimendahl, chairman, and Carlos Campbell of the National Canners Association staff, representing the canners, and S. G. Gorsline representing the machinery men, which will be a clearing house for priority information for the canning industry and for contact with the Priorities Division of the O. P. M.

Cranberry Growing in Massachusetts

According to a recent publication issued by the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station (Bulletin 371), entitled "Cranberry Growing in Massachusetts", that State produces more than one-half of all cranberries grown in the world. The preparation of an ideal cranberry bog is described in the bulletin, cost of building a bog, and cultural practices necessary to produce the crop profitably. Machinery for harvesting and tools for cultivating are illustrated, as well as methods of controlling diseases and insects. Figures are given showing the production of cranberries, in barrels, in the other important-producing States, including New Jersey and Wisconsin.